

## **Update on Arizona's Plan for the ACA Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program**

**May 9, 2011**

The Inter Agency Leadership Team has been evaluating data gathered for the needs assessment, input from local communities, and evidence on home visiting models. We have been able to come to consensus on the two critical questions of:

- What communities will be served?
- What model(s) will be selected?

We met with community members from Tucson and Casa Grande/Coolidge and presented the local data gathered for the [Needs Assessment](#) and explained our process for gathering the data. There were robust discussions of the results of the [Mathematica Study](#) which outlined for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which models are considered 'evidence based' for this program and how the models fit the identified risk factors. Finally, we discussed the capacity of each community for home visiting in terms of resources and workforce.

Based on the level of risk, capacity of the communities, and the evidence of the models to address required benchmarks, we are proposing to implement Healthy Families Arizona in Casa Grande/Coolidge and Nurse Family Partnership in three of the highest risk Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs) in Tucson.

The vision of [Healthy Families Arizona](#) (HFAz) is that every child in Arizona grows up in a safe, nurturing and healthy family that prepares them for success in school and life.

- The HFAz program is a credentialed, home-based, voluntary program serving families at risk during pregnancy and after the birth of the baby.
- Program services are designed to strengthen families during the first five years of a child's life when vital early brain development occurs.
- HFAz is a prevention program dedicated to supporting families in their quest to be the best parents they can be.

The [Nurse-Family Partnership](#) (NFP) is designed for first-time, low-income mothers and their children. It includes one-on-one home visits by a trained public health nurse to participating clients.

- The visits begin early in the woman's pregnancy (with program enrollment no later than the 28th week of gestation) and conclude when the woman's child turns 2 years old.
- During visits, nurses work to reinforce maternal behaviors that encourage positive behaviors and accomplishments.
- Topics of the visits include prenatal care; caring for an infant; and encouraging the emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children.

The Updated State Plan will be submitted to HRSA for review and approval by June 8, 2011. It is anticipated that the review process would take at least a month. At that time, if Arizona's plan is approved we will move forward to begin implementation of the models in the areas chosen.

An important part of this grant is the development or strengthening of a statewide early childhood home visiting system. We will move to reconvene the Home Visiting Taskforce which was originally called by First Things First in October of 2009. The goal of this group will be to ensure collaboration and coordination among providers of early childhood home visiting and to ensure high quality, effective home visiting services are available for all Arizona's young families and children in need of these services.